FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LA PRENSA CARRIES BUDGET DRAFT LAW

PY170000 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Summary] The Economy Ministry has made public the draft law on the general expenditures and estimate revenues budget of the national administration for 1983. It estimates revenues at 771,123,000,000,000 pesos and provides for 1,056,973,000,000,000 in expenditures. The expected deficit amounts to 285,845,000,000,000 pesos representing 5.08 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product].

The objectives of the economic policy which are reflected in this budget for 1983 are: to increase production level by 5 percent of the GDP in order to expand employment; to raise real salaries by 5 percent over 1982 salaries; to reduce the inflation rate; to balance the current account of the balance of payments; to maintain stable exchange rate in real terms; and to keep interest rates abreast of inflation rates.

The fiscal policy is aimed at reducing the deficit of the public sector, and provides for investments in projects which will primarily increase demand for goods manufactured in Argentina.

The tables below summarize budgeted expeditures and revenues for 1983:

National Administration Distribution of Expenditures

	Billion Pesos	Percent
A- General Administration	106,952	10.1
B- Defense	134,548	12.7
C- Security	40,665	3.8
D- Health	23,297	2.2
E- Culture and Education	82,103	7.8
F- Economic Development	512,072	48.4
G- Social Welfare	141,150	13.4
H- Science and Technology	24,255	2.3
I- Public Debt	1,930	0.2
subtotal	1,066,972	100.9
saving to be made	10,000	0.9
total	1,056,972	100.0

Sources of Revenues

	Billion Pesos	Percent
Current Revenues	765,484	99.7
Tax revenues	609,170	79.3
A- income tax	28,488	3.7
B- property tax	11,735	1.5
C- production, consumption and transactions	331,667	43.2
D- foreign trade	159,615	20.8
E- other tax revenues	22,924	3.0
F- social security and assistance	54,741	7.1
nontax revenues	156,314	20.4
G- fees and tariffs	33,153	4.3
H- other nontax revenues	123,161	06.1
capital entry	2,359	0.3
I- sale of fixed assets	339	
J- loan collection	2,020	0.3
total revenues	767,843	100.0

CENTRISTS PROTEST PARTICIPATION IN NONALIGNED

PY162057 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Mar 83 p 7

[Text] Former Economy Minister Alvaro Alsogaray and Federal Party leader Francisco Manrique both stated yesterday that Argentina should not be a part of the Nonaligned Movement.

Alsogaray, head of the Democratic Centre Union (UCD), said the Malvinas war "has made us think that our friends are to be found among the nonaligned."

"The most we can expect (from them) is a very small declaration in a text (covering) many points -- just theory," Alsogaray said. He added that "no one from that sector helped us during the war."

The war had "clouded many minds" and there were people who were dragging Argentina towards the idelogy of the "poorest nations on earth."

"Argentina had always been linked to the advanced nations for cultural and economic reasons," Alsogaray added.

He stressed, however, that he did not believe Argentina should necessarily be allied to the United States or the Soviet Union. "We have to seek progress, not backwardness."

Manrique said Argentina's position at the New Delhi summit was further proof that the government "has lost its head."

The federal party leader also called for a prompt solution to the problem of "missing people, the financial fatherland and the Malvinas war."

Asked whether former foreign minister Nicanor Costa Mendez could be the candidate for a third, centrist political force, Manrique said flatly, "No."

Alsogaray accused Costa Mendez of having "missed four opportunities to remain on the Malvinas with the flag flying, seated at the negotiating table, and working towards an intelligent solution to the problem."

Both Manrique and Alsogaray were cautious when asked to comment on a possible coalition of centrist forces. Manrique said he disagreed with Alsogaray on some economic policies; Alsogaray said it would be necessary to iron out differences to ensure "an authentic union and not a coalition that would collapse after the first day (in power)."

URUGUAYAN COOPERATION WITH BRITISH DECRIED

PY181231 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1348 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (DYN) -- The "Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland" today "protested" against the Urugayan decision to permit British shops to dock in Uruguayan ports on their way to the Malvinas Islands, and charged that the Urugayan attitude was "highly inconsitent" with the position that this country adopted during the South Atlantic conflict and a clear violation of the TIAR [Inter American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty]."

The group issued a communique signed by Osvaldo de Stefanis, the president of the "Center of Volunteers."

International news agencies have reported in the last few hours the presence of the British ships in the port of Montevideo, where they take on supplies for the Malvinas.

POLICE CHECK BRITISH SCHOOLS AFTER PHONE THREAT

PY172237 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (DYN) -- Police sources reported today, following the telephone threat made by an alleged "direct action commando" last night, that the Argentine Federal Police have ordered "a precautionary security operation" at all schools connected with the British community or belonging to British citizens to prevent any attacks.

The sources added that the operation consists of 24-hour watches and patrols carried out by the local police precincts and other complementary measures.

In an anonymous call made to DYN last night, it was reported that an alleged organization called "2 April," which also identified itself as "Captain Giacchino group" could be responsible for addressing letter bombs to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The group also announced that in the next few days the British schools will be forced to close down "either by hook or by crook."

BOMB EXPLODES IN JUSTICIALIST PARTY BUILDING

PY172149 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (NA) -- Early this morning an explosion caused considerable damage to a Justicialist Party precinct building in the San Cristobal area.

The explosive, thrown from an automobile by three unidentified individuals, caused no injuries because the building was empty at the time of the attack.

After the explosion, the front of the building, located on 1478 Matheu, immediately caught fire but was brought under control by the fire department's quick response.

The front section of the building, named Juan Manbelude Rosas, was seriously damaged by the explosion.

NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES PROMULGATED 17 MARCH

Cabinet Holds News Conference

PY171652 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Government last night issued 11 decrees and supreme resolutions which, among other things, increase the minimum wage of 8,490 Bolivian pesos by 46 percent, raise the prices of 9 basic staples and launch a policy designed to promote industries, mining and agriculture that will be supported by a $160-million fund. The government also implemented a single bus fare for urban transportation. The government did not, however, grant a general salary hike.

The various government resolutions will also involve strict control of the black market in U.S. dollars by establishing drastic punishments for those who peddle this currency.

At the same time a personnel (?reduction) and a salary freeze has been ordered for all government and autonomous state organizations.

Yesterday, the government increased the minimum wage of 12,400 Bolivian pesos effective retroactively to 1 March 1983. The salary scale will be reviewed periodically every 6 months during the first year or whenever the consumer price index supplied by the institute of statistics shows an increase of 40 percent.

Decree No 19462, one of those approved on Tuesday and released last night, states:

Whereas Supreme Decree No 17263, article 4, sets forth the constitutional government's commitment to adjust the wages of all workers by the end of the first phase of the economic policy and to approve the flexible wage scale, Supreme Decree No 19277, article 10, provides that the National Wage Council, Conalsa, will establish the guidelines [passage indistinct] as stated by Supreme Decree [number indistinct] dated 5 November 1982, that it is necessary to protect the purchasing power of salaries by establishing a flexible wage scale and taking into account the consumer price index, CPI, the Council of Ministers hereby decrees:

Article 1. The flexible wage scale will be applied to the minimum wage on the basis of the variation experienced by the CPI between the first week of November of 1982 and the last week of February 1983. According to the National Institute of Statistics, INE, this percentage amounts to 46.05 percent.

Article 2. According to Decree No 19563 dated 5 November 1982 the base wage to which the new flexible wage scale will be applied is 8,490 Bolivian pesos.

Article 3. For a period of 1 year starting with the date of this decree the minimum wage will be adjusted according to the CPI as determined by the INE.

Article 4. In keeping with the flexible wage scale approved by this decree every worker will receive an increase of 3,910 Bolivian pesos.

Article 5. In view of the above articles the minimum salary or wage of Bolivian workers is hereby set at 12,400 Bolivian pesos per month and under no circumstance may a worker be paid less than the above amount with the exception of those who do not work full time or those who work less than a month. Each specific case will have to be properly documented.

Article 6. It has been established that the wages will be reconsidered every 6 months during the first year, unless the CPI experiences an increase of 40 percent in which case wages will be increased by the same percentage. Once such an increase is put into effect another 6 month waiting period will begin before the wages can be reviewed. The above provision concerning CPI variations will also apply to the second waiting period.

Article 7. The salary and wage adjustment provided for in this decree does not apply to salaries of 50,000 Bolivian pesos or more. If once adjusted, a given salary surpasses 50,000 Bolivian pesos it will be adjusted downwards to this amount.

Article 8. Any pending requests for salary reviews will have to be adjusted to the provisions of this decree.

Article 9. The measures outlined in this decree are to be put in effect retroactively to 1 March 1983.

Article 10. The salary policy herewith established will respect all accords reached with factory, state and [word indistinct] workers and the implementation of these accords will be entrusted to the ministers of finance, labor and labor development and public health and social security through the appropriate legal mechanisms.

Article 11. The application of the flexible wage scale to miners and metalworkers will be effected through a special decree.

The government has also authorized the Transport Ministry to bring urban transport fares into line by implementing a single bus fare for buses and microbuses in departmental capitals. A supreme decree that is among the measures released last night states that together with the salary hike and the establishment of the flexible wage scale it has been considered necessary to create a single fare for urban transportation in order to help lower income sectors of the population who live in suburban areas.

Transport and Communications Minister Hernando Poppe Martinez speaking about transport problems indicated that since the end of last year it has been obvious that there is a shortage of urban transportation vehicles caused by the lack of tires and spare parts and the legal actions filed by auto dealers against the owners of the buses [for delinquent payments].

He recalled that both the people and the owners of the vehicles have stated their displeasure at the situation. The government measures, he said, are expected to normalize the status of public transportation. He added that his ministry will release the measures agreed upon regarding the single fare and other adjustments through the Automotive Transport Directorate.

The pertinent portions of the above-mentioned decree state:

Single article: The Transport and Communications Ministry is hereby authorized to rationalize urban transport fares by implementing a single fare for buses and microbuses in departmental capitals. The Transport and Communications Ministry is charged with the enforcement of this decree.

The Bolivian Government has abrogated Supreme Decree No 59253, which increased electricity rates, and it created a social household category for low consumption with a preferential rate. Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Jorge Medina Pinedo and the head of the National Electric Power Directorate, DINE, will supply the details of the new rates and adjustments today.

Planning Minister on Program

FY171740 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Statement to the press by Bolivian Planning and Coordination Minister Arturo Nunez del Prado from the Hall of Mirrors of Government House in La Paz -- live]

[Excerpts] Msgrs Journalists, before disclosing any information I would like to convey to you the gratitude of the government and of the cabinet in particular because we have noticed in the past few days that your desire to keep the public abreast of any news has caused you to remain on the alert, working until late at night and waiting for the opportunity to make timely and accurate reports to our people. I think that this is a praiseworthy effort that deserves the gratitude of the economic team.

Well, the first thing that I would like to make clear -- which is a point I disclosed a few days ago -- is that the new economic policy will be different from the one implemented up to now. We have initiated what we have called a continuous process for adopting economic decisions. We want to avoid further economic maladjustments that would naturally create problems for the economic agents. These adjustments will be made gradually and as required by the development of the economic indicators.

We are not setting any deadline or timetables. The dynamics of this development will determine the extent, nature and scope of the adjustments needed by the country. As you know well, the present situation is very difficult because we are immersed in a far-reaching crisis.

During the first phase of the economic program, the government promised to prevent the economy from collapsing. This second phase will be primarily aimed at guaranteeing economic reactivation. The process was split into two phases because of the seriousness of the crisis. The various economic decisions are framed within a coherent program of government actions that has 1983 as a goal. We will immediately begin a study of the medium-term economic plan that will be put into effect at the beginning of 1984.

I must say that those who expected us to tackle several problems at the same time, that is, stopping an economic collapse, stabilizing the economy and instituting the reactivation simultaneously with drawing up medium-and long-term policies, were harboring impossible hopes. We promised to attain what was laid out in the timetable drawn up last October. This timetable established that the two phases of the economic policy would be planned first and that the medium-term development policy would be drawn up during this second phase. The government has already given some general guidelines of this medium-term policy and the goals sought by the constitutional government were clearly outlined in the speeches delivered by the president and in statements made by government officials. To say it in but a few words, this goal is to build a more equal society where solidarity will prevail, that is, to gradually eradicate the differences in income levels and the unusual concentration of income. We are striving to achieve the gradual modification of the national economic structure.

In the past the most dynamic economic sectors were the public sector and the intermediary sectors, both commercial and financial. In terms of economic structure, the development policy implemented in the first phase and the [word indistinct] to be implemented in the second phase of the national economic policy is aimed at modifying the economic priorities of the past. Since we will definitely promote the growth of eminently productive sectors, our reactivation plans begin with these sectors.

Economic development will be more solid if it is based on the growth of basic economic sectors: mining, agriculture, oil, gas, industry and construction. However, both the financial and commercial intermediary sectors I have already mentioned will not be given these incentives.

This clearly defines our task in the short and medium term. Gradually, those sectors that have already been mentioned will be supported by government policies.

We have said that we are undertaking a new style in short-term plans. We will again [word indistinct] gradually reactivate the economy. We have repeatedly noted that we cannot reactivate the economy by merely issuing government decrees. Economic reactivation is achieved through the shared efforts of the different social sectors. The government is not the only one committed in this undertaking but also the labor and business sectors. It is a challenge for all Bolivians.

Undoubtedly, the period that is ahead of us will be a difficult one, a period filled with obstacles, but we believe that there is a solution and that through the sacrifice of all Bolivians, the understanding of all national sectors and by overcoming intransigent positions we shall be successful in this undertaking and amend this country's economic behavior, which has led us to a crisis that has proven very difficult to overcome.

You can imagine our frustration at being unable to improve the situation of salaries, which have experienced a great loss in purchasing power, as promptly as possible. Nevertheless, we are achieving progress, slowly but surely.

We have not promised any miracles, we have not promised any radical changes. On the contrary, we have warned about the difficulties ahead.

The gradual policy we are implementing at this time is basically aimed at decreasing unemployment and reactivating the economy. As I have already said, the program scheduled for this year allows me to anticipate that if this gradual policy is fulfilled, we may even achieve an increase in our gross domestic product [GDP]. However, since there was a 12-percent decline in our GDP in 1983 [as heard], you will understand that a tremendous effort is required to achieve this goal, which is a very important one.

As for inflation, our aim is to cut in half the inflation rate in 1983 and perhaps, if conditions are favorable, to decrease it to 1/3 the inflation rate of 1982. Up to now the consumer price index shows that the impact of inflation in the last 4 months is less than in the preceeding months.

In this regard, with the sacrifice of the Bolivian people, we have been able to defeat this scourge that mainly affects the most modest sectors of society and mainly wage earners. This is why we are involved in an all-out struggle against inflation. But the struggle against inflation does not only mean stopping the rise in price but also means controlling prices so that goods can be produced and there is no lack of supplies in the cities.

The basic guidelines of this gradual economic policy, which mainly concerns wages, prices and economic reactivation through financing the agricultural, industrial and mining sectors, has the dual objective of increasing production and curbing inflation. This means that the goal is to achieve a real wage increase.

As in the first phase of our economic policy, our (?proposals) have not been demagogic. Everyone is aware that wage readjustments can be decreed in an irresponsible manner. But all of us understand that an excessive salary readjustment that is not accompanied by an increase in production will lead to even more acute inflation, which is precisely what we want to avoid. This gradual policy guarantees that all our objectives will be compatible.

If our assumptions about the behavior of foreign economic variables, regarding the renegotiation of the foreign debt, regarding the sacrifices that all of us must assume and regarding the conduct that must be assumed by the private sectors, are correct, we believe we can be successful in our undertaking.

However, if our domestic behavior is not in keeping with the real situation, we shall not be able to find a solution to the problem.

The great objective we had in mind during the long meetings we held was to satisfy the demands of the people. These economic decisions were delayed because of the desire expressed by the members of the government to make the most suitable economic decisions so as not to affect the lower income sectors and because we wanted these decisions to be as coherent and realistic as possible.

The current circumstances oblige us to be extremely careful and responsible. A constitutional government that strives to interpret the will of the people could not have acted otherwise.

I believe that the best answer we can give to the people is to act in a responsible manner, disregarding any demagogic attitude. Based on this point of view, we have no fear that this realistic policy will be for the benefit of the Bolivian people. I must note that if we had implemented a demagogic policy perhaps we would have had a respite for a few weeks, but later it would have turned against the people.

We believe that the severe criticism of the government is unjust particularly because of the situation when the government took power, because of the efforts made, because of the respect for freedom of the press, because of the respect for democracy and democratic principles. Moreover, we believe this criticism is unjust because all of us are devoted to getting our country out of this crisis.

After me, my colleagues in the economic cabinet will explain to you those measures that are pertinent to their ministries.

Thank you very much.

Mines Minister on Plan

PY171718 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Statement to the press by Bolivian Mines and Metallurgy Minister Carlos Barragan Vargas from the Hall of Mirrors at Government House in La Paz -- live]

[Excerpt] I believe the following are the basic measures: Speaking as a member of the Communist Party in the government we believe that the class struggle is now practically aimed at strengthening the state-owned enterprises, therefore, it is our main objective to make it possible for these enterprises to succeed.

This is why some important decrees were also approved in my sector to contribute to achieving the government's overall objective of taking the country out of the crisis and, above all, of leading our people toward a more promising future.

In line with this viewpoint, it has been proposed that the approved general wage increase be applied differently and on a case by case basis in the mines and metallurgical sector because a wage rationalization plan [words indistinct] has been under way in this sector, which naturally brought about large increases before the present one, especially at the Karachipampa national foundries enterprise.

I also want to state that workers of certain enterprises providing services and which are subordinated to this ministry will receive the full increase in order to implement the wage rationalization plan -- I wouldn't say we will fully implement it but at least concerning some major items -- so that the wage schedule with an escalator clause can be adjusted every 6 months or sooner, depending on the pace of inflation, with complete fairness in this sector. As the labor minister said, we have an anarchic wage structure and there are sharp wage differences among the various sectors and even among workers of the same sector. This is actually one of the main decrees affecting the mining-metallurgical sector.

Next, I would like to inform you that the government has approved a draft law, which will be submitted to congress, concerning crimes related to the traffic, possession and illegal purchase and sale of gold. This draft will be submitted to Congress to allow the Mining Bank, the only institution authorized to sell Bolivian gold, to fully control gold production. In line with these provisions, a decree was also approved allowing the Mining Bank to buy gold on the domestic market at competitive prices. This is also very important because it will be instrumental in promoting the recovery of our overall production, which we estimate at approximately 10 tons per year.

I believe these are the most significant aspects of the measures approved at this time and which are naturally in keeping with the policy outlined by the Democratic and Popular Unity government for the mining-metallurgical sector, one of the main productive sectors in our country.

I believe this is all I had to tell you at this time.

Finance Minister on Measures

PY180150 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Statement to the press by Bolivian Finance Minister Flavio Machicado from the Hall of Mirrors of Government House in La PAz -- live]

[Text] Gentlemen, before starting to give you an explanation regarding some decrees that have to do with the economic area, I would like to use this opportunity to mention a very gratifying event that took place today and which is significant on this occasion because we are dealing with the subject of the economic problem and the economic crisis the country is going through.

His Excellency Dr Hernan Siles Zuazo has handed me a check in the amount of 116,708 Bolivian pesos which is a contribution by the mineworkers of the Southern Mining Company. This has a double significance, one of which is general since it represents the effort of the working class in support of the democratic process of the country, an example which should be followed by all Bolivians who are truly committed to this process. From the point of view of my ministry it has great significance, because in the short time I have held my post I have only received pressures for expenditures and this is the first time I have received income which, although not very large in comparison with the whole, is income, after all.

The economic policy which has been explained by my colleagues should be rounded out according to the following concepts:

It has been said, but not proven, that this economic policy which we are conveying to you and the people in general is not coherent. It has been said that it is not coherent because those who say this believed that the new policy would be restricted to wages and prices. But even in these aspects our economic policy is coherent. We say that the salary policy is coherent because as you have seen the idea is to increase the purchasing power of the wage earners of the nation to the extent of recovering the purchasing power lost during these last 120 days for which Hernan Siles Zuazo's administration is responsible.

Our policy is equally coherent because it is setting forth a price system which provides for increases that are enough to preclude a breakdown in the production of these essential goods while curtailing at the same time excessive profits as has been the case in the past.

There is coherence here, there is coherence because the government is implementing a system of price adjustments to one of the most essential consumer goods: electric power, by adjusting the rates in such a way that the nation, the people, and especially the less favored masses, can have access to this utility with relative ease.

However, all this would still be incoherent if we did not seriously consider reactivating the economy of the country. Thus, through Supreme Decree No 19470 the government has allocated $160 million to reactivate the economic system.

Of this amount $50 million and a little more will go to reactivate the industrial and mining sector. This money is to be used mainly to purchase inputs, raw materials, tools and to supply operating capital; $43 million are allocated for agriculture and livestock with the same objectives; and $58,233,000 are assigned to supply the Bolivian Central Bank with funds for loans.

You all know that the main problem of economic reactivation is that all these sectors must keep up their productivity. For this the government now has available some $200 million. Through Supreme Decree No 19478 the government proposes to channel $5 million to stimulate the development of small industrial enterprises and crafts in general.

Through this we wish to promote a home industry which will enable large sectors of the Bolivian population to supplement the family income, at the same time obviously increasing production.

The salary policy of the government must take into account such factors as the fact that we will very soon approve a general income and expenditure budget. The salary policy that was announced will contain an automatic adjustment factor for which certain limits are set by the inflationary process, which is a reality in this country. We wish, however, to be coherent also in this; we wish that the government and we believe that the government should aim all its effort toward economic reactivation. This means greater dedication to the problems of economic reactivation and the restructuring of the state apparatus.

We cannot go on amid an atmosphere of constant demands for salary hikes which are, no doubt, just, but the nation has its limitations. Therefore, in order to help state enterprises and institutions and its executives to join in this effort to bring about a reactivation, the government has issued Decree No 19461 categorically prohibiting the executive boards of state enterprises to grant bonuses or any other kind of payments in addition to those specifically set forth by the government salary policy. Still within the framwork of coherence, we are truly concerned over the fact that the U.S. dollar, that is the price of the U.S. dollar on the black market is still the basic landmark in any tupe of transaction.

We have already made a very significant step forward by holding back, through the system of compulsory bank reserves a large amount of money, which could have been used to increase the demand for black market dollars. We are doing what we can, but the liquidity of the banking system cannot be reduced without the counterbalance of the first decree which I have told you about, that is, the one that supplies funds for the reactivation of essentially productive activities.

However, it seems that many more efforts will have to be made to prevent the black market from not only being the landmark for setting prices, which leads to an irrational behavior of the economic system, but also from expanding beyond the possibilities of our economy.

Therefore, we will submit to the honorable Congress of the nation for their consideration a draft law declaring it an economic crime to deal in foreign currency. In keeping with this law any persons involved in marketing foreign currency outside the law will be liable to not only loss of the money involved in the transaction but also to be sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 months to 3 years.

We also believe that under this system not only those who are directly involved in this traffic of money but also their accomplices must be punished. Thus, the law provides that accomplices will be punished with prison terms ranging from 6 months to 2 years.

Finally, Messrs Journalists, we believe, that is, the government believes that amid an economy marked by crisis and austerity persons who acquired riches illegally over the last few years should not go unpunished. Therefore, the government has issued a decree which require all persons who have purchased assets, shares of corporations or participation in limited liability companies after 17 July 1980 to submit a sworn statement to the income department justifying the source of the funds used to make these purchases. This is all Messrs Journalists.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR PANAMA 17 MAR

PY171758 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Beginning tomorrow Bolivia will undertake intensive negotiations designed to restructure the country's public foreign debt with international banks. The mission [words indistinct] Finance Minister Flavio Machicado who left for Panama early this morning at the head of an official delegation.

The main objective of Machicado's trip to Panama is to attend the 24th meeting of IDB governors which opens tonight.

It has been confirmed, however, that the Bolivian mission -- which is also made up of the Bolivian Central Bank president -- will undertake preliminary negotiations for restructuring the Bolivian public foreign debt in the future. The Bolivian total public foreign debt exceeds $800 million and was contracted on hard terms by Gen Hugo Banzer [words indistinct] is Bolivia's major financial problem.

Initially, the Bolivian mission will have to talk with officials of the Bank of America and with 127 other American and European institutions.

Finance Minister Machicado will outline the country's financial problems at the IDB Assembly of Governors.

BUG FOUND IN FIGUEIREDO'S OFFICE; PROBE UNDERWAY

PY180125 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] This afternoon the Information Secretariat of the Presidency issued a communique on the investigations being carried out regarding the discovery of an electronic listening device in President Joao Figueiredo's newly refurbished office.

The communique, which was delivered by presidential spokesman Carlos Atila to the media, reviews all measures taken as of 11 March when the hidden device was discovered and lists the technical characteristics of the transmitter explaining its range and operating conditions had it been used.

In the communique the Information Secretariat of the Presidency points out that the Planalto Palace security force will continue to carry out investigations. The investigation will be carried out in secrecy to secure more effective results.

After distributing the communique spokesman Carlos Atila chatted with the journalists and stated that once the investigation is concluded -- for which no deadline has been established -- the results will be disclosed. [recorded passage indistinct]

GOVERNOR BRIZOLA SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT

PY180016 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Mar 83 p 3

[Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola's message to President Joao Figueiredo on 16 March]

[Text] As I begin my activities as governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro today, I want to take the initiative of sending this message to your excellency, president of the nation, inspired by my best sentiments of harmony, patriotism and devotion to the public cause.

I want to assure the chief of the nation that we, my assistant and myself, will undertake in this state an all-out and sincere effort aimed at improving the standard of living and security of the people by offering more efficient public services and working untiringly for the development of the state and the region. We will do so in the certainty that we will thereby be contributing our share to the common effort of the whole nation.

Mindful of the high responsibility and the heavy burden which your excellency must shoulder in this difficult period, I want to officially assure you of our best cooperation in all those areas in which the federal government should deem necessary, so that all the efforts your excellency is undertaking for the country's sake may be successful.

[Signed] Leonel Brizola

BRIEFS

ARMY MINISTRY OFFICE CHIEF -- Gen Wilberto Luiz Lima yesterday took office as new chief of the Army minister's office. He was the military attache to the Brazilian Embassy in Washington at the time the Geisel government denounced military agreements with the United States. [Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Mar 83 p 5 PY]

TWO IRISH PRIESTS EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY

PY171337 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The two Irish priests whose residence visas have been canceled have left the country. Brendan Forde and Desmond McGuillicudy boarded a Chilean airline plane for Buenos Aires.

The two priests, together with the Australian Brian McMahon, were notified of the cancellation of their residence visas because of their repeated and open interference in the political affairs of the country, despite the fact that they are priests and foreigners. On various occasions they incited and staged incidents in public places and permitted public meetings to be held at religious premises in violation of the political recess in force.

MIR COLLABORATOR SENTENCED BY COURT OF APPEALS

PY172205 Paris AFP in Spanish 2135 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 16 Mar (AFP) -- Chilean Doctor Elizabeth Rendic, accused of participating in an attack on the president of the Supreme Court, was sentenced today in Santiago to 4 years in prison.

The Court of Appeals determined that the woman, in her role as a doctor, collaborated with a command of the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), which fired shots at the automobile of Israel Borquez.

BRIEFS

ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- This morning President Augusto Pinochet received Ecuadorean Ambassador Cesar Valdivieso's credentials. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Mar 83 PY]

KIRIBATI APPROVES NEW AMBASSADOR -- The Government of Kiribati has approved the appointment of Chilean ambassador to Australia, Jorge Valdovinos Fermandez, to act as concurrent ambassador to that island. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Mar 83 PY]

NEW COPPER CONFEDERATION AUTHORITY -- Rodolfo Seguel Molina has assumed the duties of president of the Copper Workers Confederation (CTC) Board of Directors. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 3 PY]

DONATION TO ECUADOR -- The Chilean Government has made a donation of $15,000 to aid those persons affected by floods in Ecuador. A check for this amount was handed over by Pedro Daza, Chilean ambassador to the OAS, to the Inter-American Fund for Emergencies. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Mar 83 PY]

GDP DROPPED IN 1982 -- According to the Industrial Development Association (Sofofa) in 1982 the Chilean Gross Domestic Product dropped by 14.1 percent compared to 1981. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 14 PY]

TYPHOID FEVER -- It has been disclosed that a total of 8,000 cases of typhoid fever were recorded in Chile last year and that so far this year there have been 524 cases. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 20 PY]

PRESIDENT SIGNS BUDGET, ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA171950 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] President Oswaldo Hurtado has signed the bill on the budget and the new economic regulations, which will take effect once it appears in the Official Gazette. The bill was approved during Monday's plenary session of the Chamber of Representatives Budget Commission, a most unusual and prolongued session that lasted into the early hours of Tuesday morning.

According to official estimates, the new law should permit the collection of an additional 10 billion sucres, which will be used to finance part the government's budget for this year. The law forbids the establishment of new government positions, and limits the payment of bonuses and overtime pay to public employees to an amount not exceeding the salary of the president of the republic [as heard]. The law also establishes in its most important temporary regulations a price freeze on the various types of gasoline, on basic goods and on farming equipment for a period of 1 year.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM NEW DELHI NONALIGNED SUMMIT

PA172128 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Galo Garcia Feraud arrived early this morning from India, where he represented Ecuador at the Seventh Nonaligned Movement Summit. During the meeting we expressed our willingness to accept a clear, dignified and just solution to Ecuadorean-Peruvian problems, Garcia Feraud told newsmen upon his arrival in Quito. He said that special emphasis was placed on Ecuador's position in favor of peaceful resolution of the border problems between the two countries. He explained that Ecuador suggested having bilateral agreements to guarantee that Peru will not attack Ecuador. Regarding the summit's final declaration, Garcia Feraud said that Ecuador agrees with some of its views, but that it must make its own observations on others. He did not specify the views on which Ecuador had observations to make. Following are remarks by Garcia Feraud:

[Begin recording] The declaration deals with approximately 200 topics. Naturally, we agree with many, but we also have observations to make regarding some aspects of the declaration. Ecuador has specific views on the meaning of the Nonaligned Movement. One of those views is that the Nonaligned Movement should truly respond to its fundamental principles, to the objectives set forth by its founders and to the real meaning of the Nonaligned Movement. For the Ecuadorean people's information, the Nonaligned Movement is an international organization that was founded fundamentally to guarantee the sovereignty of countries, to safeguard international principles and values and above all to protect them from the possibility of being dragged by the big powers into their respective spheres of political influence and to see that no one interferes with their right to self-determination, their sovereignty or their use of material and cultural resources available to mankind. [end recording]

FUT PRESIDENT ON REASONS FOR WORKERS MARCH

PA171900 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[By Felix Narvaez]

[Text] The march that the United Workers Front, FUT, is conducting with the participation of workers, students, peasants, professional organizations and public employee representatives continues in a peaceful manner. Some [words indistinct] to 4,000 persons are participating in the march, which was called by the FUT to protest measures the government has approved and others it plans to implement that, according to the FUT, will seriously harm the people's economy. Here is what FUT President (Froilan Asanza) said in an interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] What are the workers seeking?

[Answer] We are asking the government to reconsider the economic measures it has passed, such as assuming responsibility for the foreign debt of the private sector, increasing the price of gasoline, devaluing our currency and other measures.

[Question] Is the FUT trying to prove its strength with this march?

[Answer] Not necessarily. The workers have always shown an interest in national problems. We want the government to know that we are prepared to defend our rights no matter what measures it decides to pass.

[Question] Can this be considered a warning to the government?

[Answer] In a way. The workers are prepared to take any action required to prevent the government from passing measures that harm the Ecuadorean people.

[Question] What is happening in the rest of the country?

[Answer] The workers are holding similar actions throughout the country. If necessary, we will hold demonstrations every (?Tuesday), to prevent the Monetary Commission from passing measures that will harm the sectors of the country with the lowest income.

[Question] Will the 48-hour stoppage continue if the government passes more economic measures?

[Answer] Yes. If the government approves new economic measures, we will call a general strike. The FUT Board of Directors has been authorized to make such a decision in case the government rejects the FUT's demands.

[Question] As FUT president, what do you have to say about the freezing of the prices of some goods, gasoline for instance?

[Answer] Some of the things the government has approved are good, but there are others that harm the people. We are asking for a revision of those measures.

[Question] What are those measures?

[Answer] For instance, the one that does not allow public employees to organize. There are other measures that we feel should be reviewed immediately.

[Question] [words indistinct]

[Answer] The measures harming the people are those that have to do with basic goods. There is a definite upward trend in the price of basic goods. Workers are dismissed [words indistinct] the government is doing nothing to prevent it. The FUT wants something done and urges the government to take a more serious attitude in making decisions so that the Ecuadorean people are not harmed by them. [end recording]

You just heard FUT President (Froilan Asanza), who together with other leaders of the FUT are in charge of the workers march, which at this moment is going through the main streets of the city. The police are closely following the march, which is proceeding in a peaceful manner. There are lots of posters with slogans telling the government what the workers want, and others criticizing the IMF for trying to impose conditions on the Ecuadorean Government to refinance the foreign debt.

LA TRIBUNA SCORES U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

PY180025 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Yesterday the U.S. Embassy released the results of a survey carried out by members of the U.S. Department of State on human rights in Paraguay. This report, which covers all aspects of our national situation was submitted to the U.S. Congress. La Tribuna will, opportunely, analyze the report in the light of the Paraguayans' national interests. We assume that the U.S. officials have also taken the U.S. national interests as a criterion to interpret the facts in order to reach the conclusions in the report.

We are especially interested now in pointing out that LA TRIBUNA is the only newspaper which did not receive a copy of the report distributed by the U.S. Embassy.

We have learned that the U.S. embassy is somewhat upset by some of our commentaries in which we evaluate in an objective manner Paraguayan-U.S. relations.

It is still our duty to inform the public objectively and the main reason for this objectivity is the defense of national interests.

PAPAL VISIT DEFINITE; PROBABLY NOT THIS YEAR

PY180218 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Interview granted by Msgr Felipe Santiago Benitez, president of the Paraguayan Bishops Conference and vice president of the Latin American Bishops Council, in Asuncion -- no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Monsignor, we know that you have met with the holy father and his aides. Was the Holy Father's trip to Paraguay discussed during the meeting?

[Answer] Yes, I met with the holy father on two occasions. I met with him at the airport, where he met me, and then at the cathedral. I also talked with him during a private dinner held at the Nunciature together with the bishops. During the second meeting, he told me I will definitely go to Paraguay. Now, he also told me in Italian that he had to do one visit at a time. He is willing to come and he told me that he is looking forward to greeting the Paraguayan people.

[Question] Will he visit Paraguay this year, Monsignor?

[Answer] I talked with father (Tucci), Father (Santos Sabril) and Cardinal Cassaroli, who are the holy father's aides. It will be almost impossible for the holy father to come to Paraguay this year. The holy father might decide to come in November, but the chances are almost nil. As many countries have asked the pope to visit them, such as Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia, -- and the holy father has accepted -- tour of all these countries together might be arranged.

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR ENDING TOUR -- During a meeting held today at Government House, Colombian Ambassador Hector Lorduy said farewell to President Stroessner since he is ending his tour of duty in Paraguay. The ambassador expressed his appreciation to the Paraguayan people for helping him in carrying out his diplomatic duties. [Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1530 GMT 8 Mar 83 PY]

NEW PARTY AGAINST INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF COSENA

PY172324 Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Mar (AFP) -- A new political party, the Catholic Civic Union [Catolico Union Civica], publicly voiced its opposition to the institutionalization of the National Security Council (Cosena), which the Armed Forces consider absolutely indispensable to culminate the current process with presidential elections in 1984.

The Civic Union has thus joined the traditional Blanco and Colorado parties -- the remaining legally established parties -- which have already voiced opposition to including this issue in the constitutional amendment on which the Armed Forces and politicians should reach a decision this year.

Today several leaders of the Civic Union stated that the Cosena is not a constitutional body, but that if it is forcefully introduced into the dialogue, which the political parties will hold with the Armed Forces Commission for Political Affairs (Comaspo). they will accept it as an advisory commission on security issues and those pertaining to sovereignty but not as a ruling body.

The leaders pointed out that in reality this subject should be handled like any other law and stated that in their opinion the current Constitution in force since 1967, with the exception of a few changes, should be kept as it is.

These leaders also stated their belief that the establishment of a multiparty group is essential in order to adopt common positions over issues which the three parties share similar points of view.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER DELIVERS ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

PY180119 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Speech by Uruguayan Air Force Commander Manuel Buadas at ceremony to commemorate the Air Force anniversary at Independencia Plaza -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Manuel Buadas also criticized the efforts that some people make to accelerate the process since he said that these efforts may be disruptive.

[Begin Buadas recording] We must still make a tremendous effort so that the full enactment of a state of rights that we all hope to achieve in keeping with the established plan is not a mere period in which freedom will perish devoured by its true enemies. The peace we have won, therefore, calls for a permanent vigil.

No democratic solution, no matter how wise and just, can be achieved in a single day. Study, patience, and the understanding of many sectors are needed to draft it since it is a gradual and sometimes slow process. Therefore, certain attempts that are made to speed it up, no matter how well-intentioned they may be, can be harmful.

[Word indistinct] of the solutions required by the new times in which the republic must develop its activities, will demand the participation of honorable men of good-will. The task of making Uruguay into an active democracy where there is full justice, a modern economy and common accord will depend on all those citizens who love this land, and of all sectors and social levels, particularly of the young. [end recording]

PSUM CRITICIZES REAGAN'S CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

PA172210 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 14 Mar 83 pp 1, 17

[By EL UNIVERSAL reporter Bertha Fernandez]

[Text] The United Socialist Party of Mexico, PSUM, has demanded that the United States rid itself of the schizophrenia that has impelled it to threaten Latin American countries, especially those in Central America, a region it considers its property.

The international situation after World War II enabled the United States to exercise great influence in the continent's various activities. At the same time, the United States was allowed to acquire important resources from these countries, with the support of regimes that granted it all kinds of facilities in support to their interests, the PSUM added. Although the Latin American struggle has recently been aimed at getting free of imperialist oppression and at having governments that really represent the people's interests, this has not been achieved.

We can see this in the Nicaraguan people's recent efforts to rid themselves of one of the dictatorships most vigorously supported by the United States. The PSUM believes there is an internal struggle in El Salvador to get rid of the government that serves U.S. imperialism. Contrary to Mexico's position, the United States has been trying to prevent dialogue between the Salvadoran parties to the conflict in order to arrive at a peaceful solution; they prefer a military solution.

Although the UN Human Rights Commission has supported the Mexican-French proposal that calls for peaceful dialogue, the United States has not accepted this decision. Evidently, The Reagan administration's schizophrenia is preventing a negotiated solution. Therefore, the U.S. Government is trying to involve other countries in the region in the conflict, since it considers this area U.S. territory.

The PSUM finally stressed that it "supports a negotiated solution in El Salvador without intervention by countries that, above all, do not admit the true reasons for the struggle and deny the right of self-determination of peoples to decide the type of government they want. In addition, our party demands the widest possible solidarity from democratic and progressive forces in Latin America for El Salvador, Nicaragua and the other countries in the area that are threatened by Reagan's statement."

OPPOSITION PARTIES ON OIL PRICE REDUCTION

PA172110 Paris AFP in Spanish 2023 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico, 16 Mar (AFP) -- The Mexican political opposition has approved the recent government decision to reduce the country's oil price, but at the same time criticized the government's "optimism" and demanded what it described as realistic explanations of the effects of this reduction.

In line with OPEC's decision, the Mexican Government last Monday reduced the price of light oil from $32.50 to $29 per barrel, and that of heavy oil from $25 to $23 per barrel. The government has estimated that this reduction will result in an annual loss of some $1.3 billion in revenues. Representatives of the political parties expressed their concern to Patrimony and Industrial Development Secretary Francisco Labastida over "the unavoidable budget reductions that will result from this price reduction." They also expressed doubts about "the alleged benefits of a reduction in the foreign debt interests." According to the government, the oil price reduction will cause a reduction in world interest rates. Mexico will thus save $1.5 billion in 1983.

The United Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM] and the ultrarightist Mexican Democratic Party agreed that Mexico must become a member of OPEC. "This would help stabilize the international prices. Also, our country would not be subject to the market fluctuations imposed by the big powers."

Temex and Energy Minister [as received] officials pointed out, however, that the alignment with OPEC's policy had been merely convenient, but does not mean that Mexico will join that organization. The opposition parties also accused the government of being "superficial, unrealistic and irresponsible when stating that the oil price reduction would not harm the national economy." For the major opposition force, the National Action Party, "to say that the national economy will not be affected because the loss in revenues will be compensated for by lower interest rates, is a superifical allegation made to avoid a real explanation of what the government plans to do in order to adjust its expense programs." The PSUM stressed that "Mexico again finds itself on the verge of a new period of financial speculation and the nation cannot afford to lose revenues that way. The authorities must implement a strict exchange control to avoid a new race against the peso."

U.S. RECOGNITION OF 200-MILE ZONE NOTED

FL171446 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0259 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- U.S. recognition of Mexico's 200-nautical-mile economic zone constitutes a step forward for the international community, Pedro Oteda Paullada, secretary of fishing, said today. He said he did not know when our northern neighbor would sign the Law of the Sea Convention formulated last December in Montego Bay, Jamaica and said he was confident other countries would sign it.

He explained that according to President Reagan's statements the United States recognizes Mexico's 200-mile patrimonial sea as well as its sovereignty over the marine life resources contained therein. He noted that the Law of the Sea Convention established that seaboard countries had sovereignty over its patrimonial sea and all its fish resources.

PRI OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ROLE OF PARTY MEMBERS

PA161933 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 3

[Capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 13 Mar -- Those who leave the PRI cannot return. A halt will be put to political acrobats who flirt with the party, Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, chairman of the CEN [National Executive Committee] of the PRI, said today.

He warned that those who do not agree with the PRI's ideology and political action program can choose another option, BUT THOSE WHO LEAVE THE PARTY CANNOT RETURN. In this regard, he said that those who continue struggling for the essential objectives of that political organization are the ones who will remain in the party. He said that the PRI has a clear ideology, which it has been able to maintain for 54 years. "Those who do not agree with and do not deeply commit themselves to the party's ideology can choose another option."

Interviewed in this state, where he is visiting as a part of a working tour of various states of the republic, the PRI senator also demanded that the party's state presidents come out of their offices and directly work where the PRI is found: THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

I believe, he said, that the essential work of the CEN must be carried out in each state, each municipality and each community of the country. He added that this is the reason for his tour of nine states. Lugo Verduzco said that in his tour, he has found a strong and active PRI which is faithful to the ideology it upholds, "which is in line with the aspirations of the Mexican people." He confirmed that his party continues to be strong and vigorous, and he stressed that the entire PRI leadership is aware that the new natural leaders of the party must emerge from the sectional, municipal and state committees, since in this way it can gain further strength. He also reiterated that the restructuring of the PRI must continue. He added that the CEN is interested in having candidates for elected posts who are increasingly representative of their areas. He indicated that one of the aspirations of the party has been social justice and social democracy through the path of revolutionary nationalism; and therefore, Mexican revolutionaries must get involved in furthering the moral renewal of society.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT APPOINTMENTS -- The Foreign Secretariat has announced the appointment of Oliver Farres Martins as general director of bilateral economic relations. It also confirmed Carmen Moreno del Cueto as director of multilateral economic relations, and Santiago Meyes Picon as director of international technical cooperation. [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Mar 83 p 5 PA]

CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND -- Mexico City, 16 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Secretariat of Foreign Relations today announced a decree establishing a cultural exchange between Mexico and the Republic of Finland. The agreement, signed here 28 July 1982 and approved by the Congress, establishes mutual cooperation in the fields of culture, education, science, humanities and the arts. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1623 GMT 16 Mar 83 FL]

NEW FRG AMBASSADOR -- Mexico City, 16 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Heinz Dittmann, the new FRG ambassador, has said that to the FRG it is very important not only to maintain its friendship with Mexico but to bring about closer economic, political and cultural relations. Upon his arrival in Mexico, the German ambassador also stated that there are many possibilities to improve the relations between the two countries in all areas, thanks to the understanding achieved after a century of traditional friendship. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0550 GMT 17 Mar 83 FL]

ALLEGED INCURSION IN SAN BLAS NOT PROVED

PA180410 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry still has no specific proof regarding charges made of alleged incursions by Nicaraguan and Cuban diplomats in the San Blas area. Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado today said that if this should prove to be true, talks would be held with the representatives of these governments accredited in Panama regarding observation of the established rules of protocol and diplomacy that forbid embassy officials to interfere in other countries' internal matters.

Regarding his trip to Washington next week, the foreign minister said:

[Begin recording] The visit has a double purpose: a meeting at the UN and a visit in Washington to discuss some bilateral matters. During the meeting at the UN we will discuss the information center that Panama has agreed to set up here and subjects related to the canal treaties, including that the waterway be used solely for peaceful purposes, and for the use and benefit of the international community. We will discuss subjects that have caused some concern among the Latin American community, especially the South American countries, particularly the subject of the tolls. Panama's image is being strongly affected, probably from lack of full information on this matter.

During our visit to Washington we will discuss bilateral matters: the sugar problem, problems related to the maintenance of the canal and its better use as a communications facility between the two oceans. [end recording]

PRD UPHOLDS SINGLE CANDIDATE, NATIONAL GUARD

PA180334 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The National Executive Committee [Comite Ejecutivo Nacional -- CEN] of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] held an important evaluation and working meeting with the national leadership of the PRD Businessmen's Front. The meeting was chaired by Ovidio Diaz, engineer and PRD vice president, and was attended by CEN members; Professor Rigoberto Paredes, PRD secretary general; and Roberto Gonzalez Revilla, engineer and secretary general of the Businessmen's Front.

At the meeting it was resolved to support frankly and in a Panamanian manner the search for a national agreement as soon as possible. It was noted that the Businessmen's Front envisages such an agreement around a single and only candidacy, if possible, with the participation of the majority of the organized political sectors. If, after the political process that has been supported at all times, considering it necessary for the life of the country, egotism, vested interests and anarchy prevail and make such a single candidacy impossible, the great national step should be taken around basic principles and policies to determine the future of the country.

The National Businessmen's Front of the PRD exhorted all PRD members so that, united under the current leadership, they uphold the Torrijist line of democratization and maintain support of the government of fellow party member Ricardo de la Espriella and the revolutionary and courageous position of the Panama National Guard under the command of General Ruben Dario Paredes.

COSTA RICA

'ANTI-SANDINIST' CAMP ON BORDER DISMANTLED

PA172301 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1843 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Civil Guard has dismantled an anti-Sandinist camp on the outskirts of San Dimas, a few kilometers from the Nicaraguan border, in an operation labeled "normal" by Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano.

The chief of the La Cruz police post reported today that 1 Costa Rican and 4 Nicaraguans without identity papers had been captured carrying modern communications equipment, 6 FAL rifles, 1 30-mi carbine [as received], 1 .22 cal weapon and ammunition. Solano reaffirmed that vigilance will continue in order to guarantee Costa Rica's neutrality in the internal affairs of neighboring countries.

Col Rodrigo Rivera, chief of the La Cruz border post, said that the anti-Sandinists have changed their way of looking after the troops in the camps. He said that "now they are housed in homes along the border area," but "we will not again permit this to be turned into a no man's land."

EL SALVADOR

OFFICIAL OUTLINES COVERAGE OF NEW CONSTITUTION

PA170453 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Mar 83 pp 3, 26

[Excerpt] Dr Rafael Moran Castaneda, president of the commission that is drafting a new constitution, said that the draft constitution will be completed today, in March [as published].

Moran said that the new draft constitution is already in its final phase. The deputies who belong to the commission have been working hard during the past few days, Moran said, and we believe that the draft w ill be ready for presentation to the plenary Constitutent Assembly by Easter vacation. Moran said that the new constitution could be discussed and approved in the April plenary sessions.

He explained that the new constitution is different from that of 1962. The new draft, he said, will have 10 titles. The titles and chapters into which the constitution is divided are:

Title One: The Individual and the Purposes of the State.

Title Two: Fundamental rights and guarantees of the individual which is divided into:

Chapter One: Individual Rights
Chapter Two: Social Rights
Chapter Three: Political Rights, which is in turn divided into the following sections:

1. The Family
2. Employment and Social Security
3. Culture
4. Public Health and Social Assistance

Title Three: The State: Its Form of Government and Its Political System.

Title Four: Nationality.

Title Five: Economic Order.

Title Six. The Branches of Government, Their Functions and Authority; which containes the following chapters:

Chapter One: The Legislative Branch, which includes the following sections:

1. The Legislative Assembly.
2. The Law: its formulation, promulgation and validity.
3. Treaties

Chapter Two. The Executive Branch
Chapter Three. The Judicial Branch
Chapter Four. The Attorney General's Office
Chapter Five. The Accounts Court
Chapter Six. Local Governments, including the following sections:
1. Departmental Governors
2. Municipalities
Chapter Seven. The Central Electoral Council
Chapter Eight. The Armed Forces.

Title Seven. The Administrative Regime, including:

Chapter One. Civil Service
Chapter Two. The Treasury

Title Eight. Responsibility of Public Officials

Title Nine. Scope, Application and Amendments of the Constitution

Title Ten. Temporary Provisions and Validity.

COPREFA REPORTS ON SUBVERSIVES' PLANS, TACTICS

PA180355 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Mar 83 pp 2, 22

[Text] We have received the following communique from the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa]:

"A large number of documents were found in the possession of terrorist Marianela Garcia Sanabria, better known as Marianela Garcia Villas . The subversive criminal possessed plans and documents from outside the country that she was taking to terrorist camps inside the country.

"One of the documents included the new year plan, prepared by the FMLN-FDR for the conduct of the political war during 1983.

"The new year plan discusses using labor unions and student and religious associations to promote agitation among urban civilians in support of their military war against the Salvadoran people.

"The terrorist was carrying subversive information about arms supplies for the destruction of El Salvador's economy: 'Companero Roberto: Revolutionary greetings. I am writing to you about some aspects of the materiel that must get in. Perhaps you already have it. Here, in Cocal, there are 125 landyards [as published], 12 delay fuses, 2,300 sticks of TNT, fireworks capsules and 3 sets of divers' suits (oxygen tanks, masks, etc.). All this materiel, together with the Uzi and the radios, must be delivered.

"Garcia Sanabria was also carrying a letter addressed to a contact in Mexico City named Magdalena de Arias. This person is located in the Theologic Meditation Center at 355 Augusto Rodin, Mishuak Colony, near Ciudad Satellite, Mexico City.

"Terrorist Garcia Villas entered El Salvador illegally. According to the documents in her possession, she planned to leave the country using the same routes that the internationalist criminals use.

"Other documents being analyzed involve Jesuit priest Cristino Sanchez, who directs psychological warfare for the FMLN-FDR in Suchitoto. Sanchez is the person who prepared an evil political literacy plan for peasants, whom they enslave as a 'production mass.'

"Catholic priest Sanchez, in addition to mixing Christianity and Marxism to recruit peasants, has designed literacy programs involving the class struggle to spread Marxism among the rural population and the building in El Salvador of the people's church that governs in Nicaragua together with Sandinism.

"The documents will be made known to the people and national and foreign journalists to show how labor unions are used for apparently legal purposes and how the terrorists think and plan their work to divert the church and democracy in El Salvador."

ALEJANDRO MONTENEGRO ON REBELS' FOREIGN TIES

PA172245 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Interview with former FMLN Commander Alejandro Montenegro "in February"; "Somewhere in El Salvador" -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage indistinct]

[Question] Listening to you I have noticed you have somewhat of a Cuban accent, that you use words that the Cubans use. Have you been to Cuba?

[Answer] Yes, I have been to Cuba but I didn't stay very long. I was there briefly for a meeting in July 1981. The main purpose of the meeting was so that the officers of the special [words indistinct] department could hear military and political reports from all the war fronts. This was my only contact with the Cubans.

[Question] Are any Cubans fighting in El Salvador? Are other foreigners, so-called internationalists, fighting in El Salvador?

[Answer] I can't say Cubans are fighting in the country. There was no Cuban at the front assigned to me. There are internationalists, but they are from other countries. There are Colombians, Venezuelans, Mexicans and, as far as I know, a few Italians.

[Question] Are there any Palestinians?

[Answer] No Palestinians. There are some Italians who are individual fighters. They don't belong to any volunteer brigade but are there individually. For a personal or political reason they make contact abroad and come to El Salvador individually.

[Question] You have said that the Salvadoran guerrillas receive their arms from Nicaragua. Where does Nicaragua get them?

[Answer] Nicaragua is only serving as a bridge. Its territory is a bridge for logistics support for El Salvador. As far as I know, some arms were donated by Vietnam. All the M-16's that are being used were made available by Vietnam. I believe, but I am not sure, that the Cubans provided others. The Nicaraguans provide logistics support by permitting their territory to be used as a bridge for the transportation of weapons.

[Question] Salvadorn guerrillas or their representatives go to Europe to state their case and they receive support from leftist and church sectors as well as from many well-intentioned [word indistinct]. I am referring specifically to Guadalupe Martinez, who on her visits to West Germany is even received by political party representatives and in some cases by government officials. Mr Montenegro, does she operate regularly out of the country, or is she occasionally with the guerrillas?

[Answer] Guadalupe Martinez is assigned to political work abroad. For many years she has been working solely abroad, taking advantage of the fact that she has much personal prestige as a leader. Her image was built up to obtain international aid. As a result of this situation, she produces better results abroad than inside the country.

Because of her prestige, she has been received in Europe and in the American continent, among other places, by important persons.

Regarding the groups of solidarity, apparently, she encourages them and as a result is an important person in this situation.

MANAGUA: GROUP CALLS LEADER'S DEATH 'MURDER'

PA171834 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Mar 83

["Communique to the national and international public" released by the Salvadoran human rights commission on 16 March in Managua -- read by announcer]

[Text] The nongovernmental Salvadoran human rights commission denounces the murder of Marianela Garcia Villas, who was president of the Salvadoran human rights commission; our commission's official representative in Europe, Asia and Africa; vice president of the International Federation for the Rights of Man, a UN consultative body; and the official in charge of the coordinating board of organizations for the defense of the human rights of the Central American and Caribbean peoples.

The facts: On 13 March 1983, she was killed by members of the government's armed forces in La Bermuda, 3 km east of Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department. At the time of Companera Marianela's murder, the civilian population was being indiscriminately bombed. The companera was leading a group of about 30 defenseless civilians toward the Suchitoto turnoff. They too were killed. This proves that the Salvadoran national army perpetrated a massacre against defenseless civilians, rather than engaging in a clash, as Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] has announced. The companera risked her life to save the lives of 30 defenseless townspeople.

In view of the repressive actions against the Salvadoran human rights committee, we condemn the cowardly murder of our Companera Marianela Garcia Villas, a great defender of the rights of man and of the Salvadoran people, who offered her life in line with her high humanitarian principles.

The commission also wishes to explain:

1. That our companera was abroad promoting the international diplomatic work demanded from her by her post as president. She was never an exile or a refugee. This is why she traveled to El Salvador, despite the fact that she had been charged with betraying the homeland, which is tantamount to a death sentence.

2. That our Companera Marianela Garcia Villas was not a member of any FMLN political-military organization, since her work was strictly humanitarian and was internationally recognized.

3. That the Salvadoran human rights commission is a nongovernmental organization, autonomous and independent of all political lines.

The commission urgently asks the democratic governments and peoples for their cooperation in guaranteeing fundamental rights for the Salvadoran people, for which our companera gave her life, and urges them to express their views in favor of a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict, as proposed by the governments of Mexico, France, Algeria, Yugoslavia, Bolivia and Nicaragua at the most recent UN meeting.

The Commission demands:

1. From the Salvadoran Government, effective respect for the rights of man and of the Salvadoran people, in line with the binding legal commitments on these rights that have been made with the international community.

2. From the U.S. Government, the immediate suspension of all forms of intervention in our country's domestic affairs and full respect for the Salvadoran people's right to self-determination.

The committee alerts the national and international conscience against the Salvadoran Government's possible maneuver against members of the Salvadoran human rights committee, in an effort to eliminate one of the few voices of denunciation that the Salvadoran people have.

[Signed] (Juan Voceo Palacios), member and official representative of the Salvadoran human rights committee for Central America, Panama and the Caribbean

HAVANA REPORTS FMLN REJECTION OF ELECTIONS

PA171850 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, has reported that guerrilla sabotage actions and harassment of army positions increased in El Salvador on Tuesday.

According to the radio station, intense clashes occurred in (Icaripe) and San Diego cantons in San Vicente Department, where the rebels inflicted 4 casualties on the army, Captured 15 soldiers and seized a large amount of arms and war materiel.

Other clashes occurred in Chalatenango Department and in Santa Ana, El Salvador's second largest city. Clashes and sabotage actions against vehicles were reported on the road leading to San Francisco Gotera, the departmental capital of Morazan.

The departments of La Paz, San Vicente, Usulutan, and La Union were still without power on Tuesday, as a result of the sabotage actions that last Sunday left most of the country in the dark.

In statements given surreptitiously to THE WASHINGTON POST in San Salvador, an FDR leader rejected the elections slated for December in El Salvador under pressure from the United States.

The FDR leader warned that with these elections Washington is seeking to establish a presumably constitutional government in El Salvador, which would then request direct U.S. military intervention.

RADIO VENCEREMOS: ELECTIONS 'DOOMED TO FAILURE'

PA180328 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] A new electoral farce, a new failure for our enemies. Evidently, the Salvadoran Army cannot guarantee Reagan that it can keep the dictatorship until March 1984. The U.S. President believes that, with the pace of the revolutionary victories and the regime's decadence, victory will be in the FMLN's hands by then. That is why the U.S. State Department has set the elections for December. The political maneuver of elections, so-called amnesty and false promises of democratization and respect for human rights, accompanied by a multimillion dollars in military aid, represents the greatest effort of the dictatorship and U.S. imperialism to stop the revolutionary forces' advance.

The electoral farce, set ahead, is doomed to failure. It was planned in Washington to defend Washington's interest. In no way does it resolve the serious national problems. This new farce will fail as did the 28 March farce. Did those elections improve the Salvadoran majority's critical economic situation? Did 28 March solve the ambitious quarrels of those in power? Didn't it just aggravate them and introduce them into the heart of the armed forces? Did the earlier electoral farce stop the FMLN's advance or stop the growth of international support for our cause? Did anyone really believe in the clumsy results of an election in which the people allegedly supported the head of the death squads, Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, the same man who gave the order to kill Monsignor Romero? Did the 28 March farce stop repression or punish the repressors?

The 28 March electoral results were not decided at the polls. They were fixed at the U.S. Embassy in the same way that today, at that embassy, they have ordered the new electoral farce be moved forward.

When the FMLN is about to win the war and when the war is getting stronger, amid genocide and generalized repression, the imperialists now seek to revamp the government's critical situation by means of two old ingredients; an electoral farce and increased U.S. intervention. The same ingredients were used by Reagan in the plan drafted 2 years ago to stop our struggle; it has already proved a failure. The only difference is that this time last-minute remedies will not save the regime. The people are at the doors of victory against the oppressors. The amount of recovered weapons, prisoners captured, and demoralization among the regime's special troops are the most noticeable signs that the people's victory is unstoppable.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLAS REJECT AMNESTY, POLITICAL OPENING

FL171210 Bridgetown CANA in English 1022 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, March 17, CANA-REUTER -- Guatemala's main guerrilla organisation yesterday indirectly rejected the amnesty and political opening proposed this week by President Efrain Rios Montt, saying he was trying merely to stimulate democracy. In a bulletin distributed in Mexico City, the umbrella organisation of Guatemala's four main guerrilla groups said the armed struggle which has been waged against successive right-wing governments for 20 years would continue. President Rios Montt said last Sunday that an amnesty law was being drafted and repeated that electoral laws would be promulgated on March 23, the first anniversary of the military coup which brought him to power.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) said in its bulletin: "Rios Montt and the Reagan administration are trying all the time to push political manoeuvres consisting of simulating the institution and introducing supposed economic improvements." President Rios Montt offerred an amnesty to guerrillas last year and then embarked on a ruthless military drive which human rights groups say cost the lives of thousands of Indians in the provinces where the guerrillas are most active.

PAPER INTERVIEWS LABOR PARTY LEADER GONZALEZ

AU161444 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 14 Mar 83 p 1-7

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO "Special" interview with Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the Guatemala Labor Party Central Committee -- date and place of interview not given]

[Text] For almost 30 years the people of Guatemala have been waging an unrelenting and heroic struggle against the series of bloodthirsty dictatorial regimes, established and exchanged at the whim of U.S. imperialism and placed at the service of its interests.

The new military regime under the leadership of General Rios Montt, which has been ruling in Guatemala since March 1982, was imposed by the necessity of window-dressing in order to justify the resumed North American military assistance to this country and even more exacerbated the policy of genocide directed against the people of Guatemala.

This was the subject of our talk with Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the Guatemala Labor Party Central Committee, who was kind enough to grant us this special interview for the readers of RABOTNICHESKO DELO.

Question: What is your opinion on the political situation in Guatemala following the military coup of Gen Efrain Rios Montt?

Answer: It has become absolutely obvious today that the reactionary, ruling classes in Guatemala are incapable of saving the country from the total crisis which is affecting all strata of the population in our country, in particular the workers class, the peasants and the rest of the working people. The ruling circles are unable to ensure political stability in our country. The most characteristics feature of the situation in Guatemala today is the exacerbation of the class struggle, which waged in the form of an armed clash, represents a confrontation between those who wish to maintain the existing order and to preserve it unchanged, and those like us -- who, with weapons in their hands, have engaged in the struggle against the unjust regime and have assumed the task of changing the existing order through revolutionary actions in the interest of the working people.

Rios Montt is unable to solve the crisis affecting his reactionary regime through political methods. He is incapable of settling the serious economic crisis. His actions, aimed against the people's armed struggle, affect the civilian population and he is doing this with the deliberate intention of subjecting the people to terror, so that the armed movement may be isolated. This merciless genocide, however, will turn against the president himself, not automatically, of course, but as a result of the people's masses' struggles and as a result of the struggle waged by the armed revolutionary movement, in particular.

The cruelty of the crimes committed by the present dictatorial regime and its merciless actions against the insurgents may produce a few immediate results to the advantage of the Guatemalan Government, but "de facto" they will not help achieve any important military victory for the army, and even less will they guarantee any politically signficant victories for the regime.

Question: How can you describe the main tasks of the Guatemalan Revolutionary Movement in the struggle against the dictatorial regime?

Answer: These questions were discussed at a plenum of our party's Central Committee held in November 1982. The Central Committee considered it correct to express the warning that the main danger facing the revolutionary movement at the present stage of the struggle is in the danger of becoming isolated from the masses, as a result of the enemy's actions against the insurgents.

Our party thinks that efforts should be devoted to a greater initiative in order to increase the political and military potential of the party and in order to overcome certain existing shortcomings and mistakes connected with the political leadership of the armed struggle. It is our goal not to allow any isolation from the masses and to intensify all organic links with them, as well as to work for the intensification and consolidation of the process of unity with all revolutionary forces without exception.

All other tasks we are facing are closely linked to the settlement of important problems pertaining to the development and consolidation of our party itself. These tasks, however, are aimed at foiling the plans of the dictatorial regime in fighting the guerrillas and at the intensification of the people's revolutionary combats.

For this purpose, it is necessary to establish an alliance of all revolutionary forces, to consolidate the relations between the party and the people's masses, and to involve the masses in the struggle against the dictatorial regime within the framework of their own organizations.

I would like to stress in this context that our party's main task at the moment is to develop its political, organizational and fighting capacities, this being a question of crucial importance for our work. We have devoted our main efforts to the development and to the upsurge of the armed revolutionary struggle.

Question: In addition to the Labor Party of Guatemala, there are also other revolutionary organizations existing in your country. Can you tell us something about the future prospects of achieving an alliance of the leftwing forces and establishing an united front?

Answer: As a matter of fact, there are other revolutionary organizations in Guatemala, besides the Labor Party. They are as follows: The Guerrilla Army of the Poor, the Armed People's Organization and the Rebel Armed Forces. The organized revolutionary forces in Guatemala include other leftwing movements and groups, as well, which have their own legitimate place in the struggle. There are forces, as well, which are still in a state of constituting themselves and which, taking into consideration existing circumstances, have certain difficulties in their development. Naturally, the establishment of the National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity, which already includes three revolutionary organizations, represents the most serious effort to build an alliance. We are not yet part of the aforementioned united organization, but we have devoted considerable efforts in trying to take part in this process and we will continue to do so. The leadership of the National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity invited us for talks and we agreed to attend. These talks are already taking place and a favorable atmosphere, aimed at expanding the process of building an alliance has been established.

The most important thing in this connection is the fact that all revolutionary forces are unanimous as regards the strategic methods along the path of revolution, on the question of power and on the character of the government to be established after the defeat of the dictatorial regime.

The restoration of the unity of the leftwing revolutionary forces in Guatemala is only part of the process of building a much larger front, which should involve much wider strata of the people on the basis of their awareness that it is necessary to fight the dictatorial regime. This front should take into consideration the most immediate and most urgent demands of all people's strata, as well as their willingness and readiness to join the struggle.

All these factors are acting in favor of the alliance and all revolutionary forces are consistent in their efforts devoted to this cause.

In closing I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to convey my most sincere greetings to the Bulgarian workers class and to all Bulgarian people, who are the loyal heirs of Georgi Dimitrov's traditions, of whom they are proud and whose example they are following. The respected communist leader was an outstanding figure of the international communist and workers movement as well.

HONDURAS

SALVADORAN ELECTORAL OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR VISIT

PA171920 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Three members of the Salvadoran Central Electoral Council, CCE, are in Tegucigalpa to learn about the Honduran electoral system.

At a news conference that was also attended by Sigfrido Munes [Salvadoran ambassador to Honduras], the Salvadoran electoral officials praised the two elections held recently in our country.

The Salvadoran CCE members met today with National Electoral Tribunal officials, National Registry Office officials and other government officials involved with electoral procedures in our country. They are interested in learning about the Honduran electoral system in order to begin preparations for the presidential elections announced for March of 1984 [as heard].

The Salvadoran CCE delegation consists of its president, Ricardo Alfredo Maida, who represents the Democratic Action Party; Roberto Meza, representative of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC; and (Enzo Rovira Misco), of the Salvadoran Popular Party.

NICARAGUA

TIRADO LOPEZ CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN AREA

PA171441 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Speech by Commander Victor Tirado Lopez, member of the FSLN National Directorate, closing a ceremony to mark the centennial of Karl Marx' death, on 15 March; place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] One hundred years after Karl Marx' death, capitalism has grown weak. Undoubtedly, it is less powerful than 100, 50 or 30 years ago. As revolutions triumph and the anti-imperialist movement grows stronger, capitalism withers and wears out. However, it aggressive nature has not changed. It has not ceased being a source of military conflicts. All of the wars that have broken out since Marx' death have been provoked by imperialism, whether world, regional, or local wars.

However, conditions under which such wars can occur have changed in a century. Imperialism can provoke wars at various levels, but there are forces in the world capable of deterring it and preventing war. If no armed regional conflict has taken place in Central America up to now, it is because U.S. imperialism has very little support inside those countries or abroad to launch one.

During the last few days, we listened with amazement and concern to the speech in which the North American president, with his customary aggressive and threatening tone, justified his intervention in the area with the barefaced theory that the national security of the United States is in danger because Central America is North America's fourth border. Maybe imperialism delineated our borders 100 or 50 years ago, but that has changed now: The Central American peoples are the ones who demarcate or draw up their own borders with firm and powerful hands [applause].

We are struggling to strengthen independence, sovereignty and self-determination because this helps construct the foundations of socialism. [applause] We want to change our relations with the United States. We are not and do not want to be a frontier or a link in the empire. We want normal relations on an equal footing with North America.

The incumbent U.S. President is not giving up on obsolete policies and, in line with that view, has taken a dangerous step in El Salvador. He is demanding $110 million from Congress to reinforce that country's armed forces and $20 million to prop up his allies in the region. These are millions of dollars to prevent the carnage from stopping in El Salvador, to help counterrevolutionaries continue their killing on Nicaragua's northern frontier; millions of dollars to worsen our economic problems, to delay democratic development and the solution of the people's problems, to drive away the possibility of a negotiated settlement of the crisis on the isthmus.

At this juncture, in face of the White House's new military campaign in El Salvador, who can seriously believe that Reagan advocates a political solution? And if the war continues simultaneously -- and this is no secret -- against us, how can we be asked to lower our guard. How can we be asked to disarm and not to build up the army, the militias and the reserve battalions?

Under these circumstances, the states of economic, national and military emergency must continue because the danger and threats surrounding us are big and are still growing. What we [words indistinct] to reinforce are our defenses. [applause]

NEW HONDURAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PA172041 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The new Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua, Hector Alfonso Pineda Lopez, today said that his mission is to internationalize peace and strengthen the friendship that already exists between Honduras and Nicaragua. The new diplomat today presented his credentials to the revolutionary government during a ceremony held at the Cesar Augusto Silva international conventions center.

Honduras and Nicaragua are the isthmian waist of the American continent, and they advance like two drops of water toward the same oceans, which bathe with their waters the fertile lands that comprise our national territories, Pineda Lopez said in his speech, which revealed him as a peaceful Central American.

Referring to the existence of counterrevolutionary bands in his country, the Honduran diplomat argued that the large size of his territory did not allow him to ascertain the truth. Nevertheless, he assured Nicaragua that the Guasaule treaties would be respected by his country.

NEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ANNOUNCED IN NEW DELHI

Ties With Afghanistan

PA161623 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Joint communique issued by the Republic of Nicaragua and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in New Delhi, India, on 12 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, wishing to develop relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields, based on the principles of absolute equality and mutual benefit, respect for national sovereignty and nonintervention in each other's domestic affairs, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries and exchange diplomatic missions at the ambassadorial level.

For the present, the Nicaraguan and Afghan Embassies in Havana will be in charge of the diplomatic relations.

The provisions of this joint communique became effective today, 12 March 1983, the date on which it was signed in New Delhi.

Signed by Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, for Nicaragua, and Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost, for Afghanistan.

Relations With Ghana

PA161555 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Joint communique issued by the Government of the Republic of Ghana and the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction to establish diplomatic relations, signed in New Delhi, India on 11 March 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Ghana and the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, with the purpose of strengthening the existing cordial relations and increasing the cooperation between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect for their independence and territorial integrity, and in accordance with the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the UN Charter, have decided to establish diplomatic relations effective today.

The two countries agree to have diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

Signed in New Delhi on 11 March, 1983, by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman and Ghanian Foreign Affairs Secretary Obed Asamoah.

PRIEST DENIES IRREVERENCE DURING POPE'S VISIT

PY172242 Paris AFP in Spanish 1455 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 17 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Government never sought to encourage irreverent behavior during the visit which Pope John Paul II paid to Nicaragua, Father Fernando Cardenal, deputy director of the Sandinista Youth and brother of the Nicaraguan education minister, said here today.

Pope John Paul yesterday referred to an incident that occurred during a mass he said in Managua. The pope said that it was an irreverent act. For its part, Vatican Radio charged that the Nicaraguan Government had manipulated the mass.

Cardenal stated that the people who attended the pope's mass were disappointed because he made no reference to the death of 17 young Nicaraguans, ambushed by Somozist counterrevolutionaries on the Honduran border on the eve of the Pope's arrival in Nicaragua.

The people expected that the pope would pray for peace and for the dead, but the pope received misleading information and, therefore, arrived with preconceived ideas, Cardenal said. Father Cardenal also defended the participation of church members in the Sandinist government.

The pope's decision that neither priest nor nuns can engage in politics is correct, but the Nicaraguan case is an exception, Cardenal told reporters. The Latin American Bishops Council (CELAM) admitted to this exception in June 1981, when it permitted Nicaraguan priests to occupy government positions, he added.

Father Cardenal also said that there was no divisions but just tension between conservatives and progressives within the Nicaraguan church. He also denied that there was a confrontation between some Nicaraguan priests and John Paul II.

POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS DISCUSS ENDERS' PROPOSAL

PA180238 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Leaders of the country's traditional political parties questioned about the proposal made by Thomas Enders, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, to create a so-called regional institute for democracy have totally rejected this maneuver because it runs counter to political pluralism. Therefore, leaders of the traditional parties have rejected the creation of the regional institute for democracy.

Rodolfo Robelo, vice president of the independent Liberal Party, said that the situation of the Latin American peoples is too complex to say their problems can be resolved with an institute for democracy. It is necessary to look at the roots of backwardness in Latin America. We cannot talk of the causes without talking about the great historical process of our peoples' exploitation and the obvious meddling by foreign interests in our countries, in which a profound sense of nationality is required, Robelo said.

Hernaldo Zuniga, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Conservative Party, said that true democracy leans toward political pluralism as stated in the fundamental statute of rights and guarantees of revolutionary Nicaragua.

According to statements made yesterday to "Extra" [newscast] by Adan Fletes, leader of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, creation of the regional institute for democracy proposed by Enders may help the Latin American political parties identify themselves generally with U.S. parties. The leader of the Social Christian Party stressed that the U.S. Government apparently seeks a political equivalent and noted that European Social Democrats, Socialist International and other organizations maintain ties with Latin American political parties.

On another subject, Fletes agrees with the U.S. government's promotion of north American democracy in our countries. The historical consequences of this democracy are visible in our countries.

BLOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR U.S. CITIZEN

PA171332 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. internationalist (Pedro Nemensey) is gravely ill at the Manola Morales hospital in Managua and urgently needs blood type B negative or O negative; we repeat; B negative or O negative.

Any Nicaraguan brother or internationalist that has this type of blood and wishes to save a life please go immediately to the Manolo Morales hospital.

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ON PAYMENT OF DEBT

PA172033 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Nicaragua must adjust the payment of its foreign debt to its economic possibilities, Central Bank President Luis Enrique Figueroa has said, while denouncing U.S. pressures on the multilateral financial organizations. Figueroa addressed the almost 100 state technicians who were participating in the first national seminar on "the investment process and foreign financing." The event was organized by the Nicaraguan Public Administration Institute, INAP, and it closed on Saturday.

According to Figueroa, if we continue with our current economic situation, our revenues and the new financing will soon have to be used exclusively to pay the service on our debt. "Formulas are being sought to overcome this situation," he explained, while advocating support for an overall renegotiation of Latin America's external debt.

He added that "the flow of financing has been reduced" due to U.S. pressure and to the stand adopted by a number of commercial banks that are setting up obstacles in their relations with Nicaragua, despite this country's efforts to pay the service on its debt.

Figueroa called for the establishment of "the correct investment policy," which will lead us to an economy in which more is produced than consumed (creating a national saving). He stressed that the pressures exerted on these financial organizations, some of which "have been unfair in the way they have treated Nicaragua" have forced us to lobby, to seek friends and to take advantage of every opening to obtain financing. The national seminar was extremely important, and recommendations were made concerning the manner in which the investment problems might be solved.

INE MINISTER DIRECTOR ON IMPACT OF NEW OIL PRICE

PA162230 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico is the first country to officially inform the Nicaraguan Government of the oil price reduction.

Emilio Rappaccioli, minister director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, INE, announced this afternoon that the Mexican Government has officially informed him of the substantial oil price reduction agreed upon by OPEC countries in London.

Nicaragua will now purchase oil at $29 per barrel, according to the latest OPEC agreement.

Venezuela and Mexico are the two countries that sell oil to Nicaragua, based on an agreement they signed with Central American countries in San Jose, Costa Rica.

No announcement has been made on whether Venezuela will comply with the decisions made in London.

We will now listen to the official voice of the Nicaraguan revolutionary government, through INE Minister Director Emilio Rappaccioli, who will tell us about the benefits to Nicaragua resulting from the $5 oil price reduction.

[Begin recording] [Rappaccioli] I would like to remind all and emphasize that as we already know, petroleum is one of our main imports, since it is necessary for all the different economic activities in the country.

Oil imports in 1982 totalled apprxomiately 4.2 million barrels, and we have estimated our 1983 needs at 4.5 million barrels. To date, and while the previous price was maintained throughout 1982 and during the first months of 1983, we have been paying $32.50 per barrel, FOB, for importing Mexican oil.

We have just received an official announcement from Pemex to Petronic [Nicaraguan Petroleum] establishing a new FOB price for oil sent by Pemex, or imported from Mexico: $29 per barrel. So, in the case of Mexican oil, the difference is $3.50. Our estimated oil imports from Mexico for 1983, according to the San Jose Agreement, will be approximately 2.5 million barrels.

So, if we multiply these 2.5 million barrels by $3.50, we can see the effect that this reduction in the price of Mkxican oil will have on our economy, specifically in the imports figure. We are talking about approximately $6 million.

[Question] There are speculations that in view of the drop in the price of oil, the cost of industries, transportation and energy will also drop. Could you clarify this for us?

[Answer] Yes, this speculation is logical, but I do not think it is correct. We are not going to lower our electricity rates, for example, because the price of oil has dropped. We are generating, or will probably generate, 55-60 percent of our total energy in 1983 from petroleum. This remains a very high percentage of the total energy produced in our country. Additionally, we are also uncertain about the amount of energy that the hydroelectric plans will produce, as it will depend, in part, on the type of rainy season we have this year. Thus, to talk about reducing electricity rates at this time because of the drop in the price of our oil is not sensible. In addition, we cannot talk about reducing bus fares, since we know that this activity is government subsidized. So, even with this price reduction, the impact that oil imports have on our economy continues to be severe, in general terms, based on the percentage of this reduction. Our petroleum bill amounts to approximately $80 million, and the consumption of oil in the country is approximately 4.5 billion barrels, so a reduction of $4.00 means approximately $17 million, which is 10 percent of the total bill. [end recording]

BRIEFS

ROMANIAN PATROL CARS -- Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Solano Calderon has said that negotiations are being concluded to import patrol cars from Romania, as partial payment for 2 million colones worth of coffee exported to that country. The purchase will be made through private bids, and will be handled by the comptroller's office. The cost of the vehicles will be approximately 1.7 million colones. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 83 PA]

VISIT BY BULGARIAN OFFICIAL -- Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, toured several production centers over the weekend accompanied by Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Bulgarian Communist Party. As part of the tour, they visited the new Malacatoya sugar mill, under construction, which is expected to be completed by November 1984. The project will cost $250 million, and is being financed by the socialist countries. It will produce 130,000 tons of sugar per year. They also toured Las Canoas dam, 15 km from Malacatoya. The dam will cost 300 million cordobas, and will be used in irrigating the sugarcane plantations. [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 83 PA]

NEW APPEALS COURTS -- Nicaragua's six old courts of appeal of six magistrates each will be replaced tomorrow by six new courts in accordance with the reorganization of the judicial branch. Managua's court of appeals will have five magistrates and the rest will have three. The Superior Labor Court has been eliminated and its functions will be absorbed by the civil court in Managua and the courts of appeal in the rest of the country. [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Mar 83 PA]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA -- The Junta of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction has appointed Jacinto Suarez Espinoza new ambassador to the Mongolian People's Republic. [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Mar 83 p 12 PA]

MALMIERCA INTERVIEWED ON 'DISPUTE' WITH U.S.

LD172329 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca, the Cuban foreign minister, was recently in Hungary. Our foreign political editor Gyorgy Bernat, asked him about the dispute between Cuba and the United States.

[Bernat] The United States reproaches the Cuban Government for supporting Central American liberation movements, supplying them with arms and money, serving as a political backer and stirring up discord in a region close to the United States.

[Begin Malmierca recording in Spanish fading into Hungarian translation] The United States tries to present the struggle of the Central American peoples as though it were being waged for foreign interests. In reality, this struggle is being waged by the will of the peoples. It can be proved easily with historical facts that on this occasion, as so often before, the United States is trying to mislead international public opinion. The liberation struggle of the peoples of Central America started a long time ago. It was being waged even before the October Revolution, before the world's first proletarian state was born. Fidel Castro was not even born then. When Sandino drove the U.S. Marines out of Nicaragua the Cuban revolution did not even exist.

This struggle was started because there was terrible repression and exploitation in the countries of Central America. The neocolonialists set up banana republics and severely punished anyone trying to struggle for the rights of the masses, for independence, for freedom.

The weapons are supplied to the liberation front directly by the North American Government. [as heard] The American reinforcements, the most modern weapons, arrive continuously for the tyrannical regimes in order to maintain them. In El Salvador, for instance, the guerrillas of the National Liberation Front buy these arms from the El Salvador Government troops. The imperialists try to present as illegal and totally abnormal the solidarity and assistance which the peoples under arms receive from the other peoples. At the same time, they reserve for themselves the right to arm and sustain the tyrannical regimes. We cannot accept this opinion. [end recording]

U.S. POLICY, JOHN FERCH SPEECH IN HAVANA SCORED

FL171315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The hegemonic role which the United States wants to maintain in Latin American countries received strong criticism during the last 3 days of debates held here by social science specialists from the hemisphere and the Soviet Union. The debates took place in an international roundtable entitled: the United States in the 1980's. Over 250 professionals from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Costa Rica, the Soviet Union and the United States participated in the debates held at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Highlighted in the debates was the fact that the fundamental behavior of the United States is antagonistic and its hegemonic posture makes it support the most unpopular regimes, intervene in countries it considers to be its enemies, and invent enmity where it does not exist.

The delegates also heard a speech by panelist John Ferch, chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba, who asserted that the administration of President Ronald Reagan will maintain its hostile policy against our country in its attempt to gain concessions which may satisfy what he defined as the vital interests of U.S. national security.

Ferch delivered a series of concessions the United States wants from Cuba at the bilateral level in order to normalize relations, among them the so-called right of Washington to establish a radio station to broadcast anti-Cuban propaganda to Cuba.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH BULGARIA

FL172318 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The final protocol of the 16th meeting of the Cuban-Bulgarian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed today. Its results were termed an example of solidarity between the two countries.

Andrey Lukanov, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and deputy chairman of Bulgaria's Council of Ministers, and Antonio Esquivel, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, signed the protocol.

TORNADOES HIT HAVANA, PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCES

FL171500 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Extensive damage and destruction of crops, cattle installations, electric lines, houses, as well as dozens of injuries are the results of several tornadoes that lashed Havana and Pinar del Rio Provinces yesterday afternoon. In Havana Province, there were 2 people killed, 70 injured, 191 houses damaged, extensive damage in the agricultural sector and breakdowns in electric lines. These were the results of two tornadoes which produced strong winds and heavy rains in Mariel, Guanacay and Artemisa.

In Artemisa, approximately 250,000 plantain plants were knocked down by the wind. Meanwhile, the potato harvest has been affected by the heavy rains.

The Maximo Gomez Thermoelectrical Plant in Mariel was not damaged, however, the breakdowns in electric service are due to the fact that 110 and 220-kilowatt towers and lines fell. This has resulted in the paralysis of almost all industries in western Havana Province. These breakdowns are seriously affecting important areas of our economy, particularly textile factories such as the Ariguanabo of Bauta and the (Alquitez) of Alquizar and the Mariel Cement Factory among others.

The president of the Havana People's Assembly reported that the students of secondary schools and preuniversity rural students, as well as those studying in the farm school program, have no problems and are attending classes as usual. It was also reported that almost all residents of Cajio in Guira, Majana in Artemisa and Guanimar in Alquizar have been evacuated in the event of possible floods as the waves were approximately 3 meters high. The Havana Provincial Politburo has issued a call to the people for the forces assigned to agricultural mobilization to join the potato harvest in order to prevent greater damamge.

VIETNAMESE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER PAYS VISIT

FL161415 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] A Vietnamese delegation headed by Nguyen Ngoc Triu, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and minister of agriculture, has visited the Nina Bonita feed and fodder's main station and the Nina Bonita breeding and livestock enterprise located in the Municipality of Bauta.

The guests are in our country at the invitation of Arnaldo Milian, member of the party Politburo and minister of agriculture. During their tour of the facilities, members of the delegation were interested in the research to adapt leguminous plants to tropical climates in order to obtain a higher yield for use as a protein source in cattle feed.

AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

FL152045 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] The new Cuban Ambassador to UNESCO, Alfredo Guevara, today presented his credentials to UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'bow.

During a ceremony held in the organization's headquarters in Paris, Guevara presented to Mahtar M'bow the documents accrediting him as our fatherland's representative before UNESCO.

COMPARISON OF COMMUNIQUE ON CASTRO'S GDR VISIT

For the comparison of the ADN and NEUES DEUTSCHLAND versions of the communique on the visit to the GDR by Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and chairman of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, see the GDR section of the 18 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

STUDENT'S DEATH SPARKS RIOTING IN NORTHERN CITY

PA171906 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0004 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Mar (EFE) -- Commerical, education and cultural activities in the Dominican city of San Francisco de Macoris, were totally paralyzed due to riots yesterday and today in protest over the death of a student arrested by the police. During the riots, three police precinct buildings were stoned, policemen and youths clashed, school activities were suspended, and hundreds of tires were burned.

Dozens of youths have been arrested by the police. Policemen using antiriot equipment charged groups of demonstrators in San Francisco de Macoris, a city in the northern part of the Dominican Republic. Since dawn today, three busloads of policemen have been watching several sectors of the city and reinforcing the security guards in local banking areas. A large part of the Avenida de la Libertad, the city's main thoroughfare, is still closed because the demonstrators blocked the avenue with cars.

Riots in Santo Domingo

FL171639 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1620 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Santo Domingo -- The Dominican police used teargas to attack hundreds of students who took to the streets of this city or protest the death of a youth at the hands of a uniformed agent. The attack resulted in 20 people injured and approximately 100 arrested.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE MORE PRICE CONTROLS

FL171519 Bridgetown CANA in English 1452 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, March 17, CANA -- The Antigua and Barbuda Government has announced its intention to introduce additional price control measures. Governor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs, in a throne speech at the opening of a new session of Parliament yesterday, said that the additional measures were needed because the prices of essential items were steadily rising.

In view of the essential nature of certain consumer items such as food, patent medicines and building materials, the prices for which are forever rising higher and higher, it is now absolutely necessary that early steps be taken to introduce appropriate control measures, the governor general said. He added that government was bent on ensuring that the prices paid by consumers for goods and services were fair and reasonable. Sir Wilfred also warned of difficult times ahead due largely to the effects of the international economic recession. He said that every citizen had to make a determined effort to meet the challenges of the future.

As a nation, we ought to be aware of the fact that our own survival and the stability of our economy depend on the efficiency with which our trade and industries function, he said. In recognition of this, Sir Wilfred also announced plans to establish a trade information service within the Ministry of Economic Development. The overall effect of this he said, should result in a more pleasant and healthier business-consumer-relationship.

ISLANDS TO GET $13 MILLION LOME AID FOR MAINTENANCE

FL172038 Bridgetown CANA in English 1815 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 17, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda is to receive some 13 million dollars (one E.C. dollar: 37 cents U.S.) under the two Lome aid, trade and investment agreements, a government statement said today. The Lome Convention governs trade and aid relations between more than 60 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP countries and the European Economic Communist (EEC).

The statement said that of that amount, five million dollars had been allocated to the maintenance, repair and construction of roads, while another four million dollars will be used for upgrading and extending the electricity transmission and distribution lines. Government also said that three million dollars will be used for the construction of a technical and vocational training centre for young people.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF DEPENDENCE ON IMF, U.S.

FL141635 Bridgetown CANA in English 2351 GMT 13 Mar 83

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 13, CANA -- Former Barbados Prime Minister Errol Barrow, today described interest rates here as counter-productive for job creation, and said they should be lowered. "There is no justification for high interest rates in Barbados," he told the final session of a symposium on national reconstruction held by his party's educational arm.

"The task, therefore, is to bring about a drastic reduction in the high interest rates in order to put an end to the number of small businesses which are going out of business daily...."

Mr. Barrow, whose party was in power from 1961 to 1976, took a critical look at the government's import, fiscal, employment and tourism-promotion policies. Having the highest level of corporative and private saving in the region, Barbados needs not borrow money from outside at high interest rates, he said.

Mr. Barrow accused the present government of dependence on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United States to the point where it seemed Barbados' constitution had been lodged with the IMF and State Department. He claimed that Barbados' budget for 1983 had already been written in Washington.

The opposition leader called on the Barbados Government to "stop running cap in the hand to the People's Republic of China and the United States of America as mendicants for aid."

He said the total proposal of the U.S. based Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) for the eastern Caribbean was 10 million dollars "or the equivalent of four weeks bus fare for each woman, man and child in this country, providing they don't have to catch two buses to get where they are going."

Nowhere was there a greater need for self-reliance to be manifested than in the tourist industry, he remarked.

"We must not talk, but do something about our food import bill which has now reached a figure of 180 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) annually," Mr Barrow said.

"Tourism can only be beneficial to the general economy if we are prepared to develop the agricultural and handicraft sector of the economy."

The former finance minister said that the localisation of the tourist industry must also be self-evident in management.

He said that the employment of the work permit industry as a source of government revenue had resulted in the closing of avenues of work for well-qualified and highly trained Barbadians, many of whom he said had to seek employment outside the country.

"If we are to continue to accept the prevailing myth that we need to import management for the tourist industry after all these years of scholarship and training in hotel management, then we would never be able to rid ourselves of the slur of inferiority implicit in the policy of industrialisation of work permits." Mr. Barrow added.

EXPORTS TO, IMPORTS FROM NON-CARICOM STATES

FL172348 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 17 Mar 83

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 17, CANA -- Barbados' exports to its non-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) trading partners during the first 10 months of last year fell by six million dollars (1 Bds dollar: 50 cents U.S.) compared with the corresponding period in 1981, according to official figures published here.

The January-to-October sales totalled 324.4 million dollars compared with 330.4 million dollars in 1981, while imports stood at 784.3 million dollars -- 4.5 million dollars less than the 788.8 million dollars the previous year.

The Barbados Statistical Service said that Barbados' exports to the United Kingdom rose last year to 46.4 million dollars compared with 25.7 million in 1981. The increase was 20.7 million dollars.

Imports from the United Kingdom declined by 30.5 million dollars falling from 117.9 million dollars in 1981 to 87.4 million dollars in the review period last year.

Sales to Canada dropped by 6.7 million dollars from 16.8 million dollars in 1981 to 10.1 million dollars last year and imports from 80.6 million dollars to 55.4 million dollars, a decline of 25.2 million dollars.

Barbados' main exports are sugar, rum, chemicals, electrical components, garments and molasses.

Exports to the United States went up by 8.7 million dollars during the 10 month period in 1981 when Barbados sold 131.5 million dollars, compared with 122.8 million dollars in 1981. American imports also increased during the review period from 320.9 million dollars in 1981 to 363.9 million dollars. The rise was 43 million dollars.

Barbadros' imports from Japan dropped by 20.2 million dollars from 49.4 million dollars in 1981 to 29.2 million dollars last year.

Barbados imported mainly cars from Tokyo.

The trade figures show that Barbados' exports to Puerto Rico which were mainly electrical components rose by 32.2 million dollars to some 33 million dollars compared to 1.7 million dollars in 1981.

Imports from Venezuela, Barbados' main source of crude oil, declined by 7.5 million dollars in the first 10 months of last year to 43.9 million dollars compared with 51.5 million dollars in 1981. Exports to Venezuela dropped from 225,000 dollars in 1981 to 204,000 dollars last year, Barbados' main exports being garments and furniture.

DOMINICA

FRENCH MARTINIQUE OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DRUG TRAFFIC

FL171700 Bridgetown CANA in English 1627 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 17, CANA -- French and Dominican authorities are to take steps aimed at minimising the narcotics trade between Dominica and the neighbouring French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, it has been officially announced here.

In a statement today government said the deputy head of the French Gendarmarie in Martinique, Lieutenant Colonel Andre Jeanvoine was in Dominica holding discussions with the local police on the matter.

The statement did not give any details as to how the authorities intended to crack down on the narcotics trade, but said that "crimes committed on both islands sometimes had a bearing on each island."

Last year's local police records show that there was an almost 100 per cent rise in the number of narcotics cases here with a number of arrests being recorded.

GRENADA

BISHOP HAILS BUDGET, CASTIGATES U.S. AGGRESSION

FL180104 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Addressing this morning's ceremony at [word indistinct], Prime Minister Marurice Bishop pointed out that the national budgetary plan was the culmination of a remarkable exercise that has given further proof of the deepening of the process of people's democracy here. He said this morning's presentation once again demonstrates a new approach to the question of a budgetary plan, an approach that is totally consistent with the PRG's [People's Revolutionary Government], theme of democracy.

[Begin Bishop recording] But this budget plan is also remarkable because it demonstrates in a very concrete and lucid way the continuing growth, the continuing benefits and progress that our revolution is making, notwithstanding the crisis in the capitalist world, the economic crisis in the capitalist world with which we trade, with which we are primarily related on the economic front and notwithstanding, too, the United States' imperialist aggression against our country.

Because notwithstanding this crisis, and notwithstanding this aggression, the fact of the matter is the revolution has continued to go forward, go forward strong. The revolution continues to make progress, and despite the best efforts of our enemies we are in fact moving on. [end recording]

Notwithstanding many efforts of United States' imperialism to destabilize the Grenada revolution through economic aggression, propaganda destabilization and other means, he said our country continues to more forward and our economy continues to grow every year. That is why, Prime Minister Bishop said, U.S. imperialism has been forced more and more into using armed aggression against Grenada.

[Begin Bishop recording] And that is why we have to take this massive propaganda of the last 2 and 1/2 months so seriously. That is why we have to understand the full meaning of this new pretense on the part of the Ronald Reagan administration that our country is a threat to our neighbors, that our country is a threat to the national security interests of the United States, because by making this claim of being a threat to the national security interests of the United States. What Ronald Reagan is really trying to do is to prepare the people of the United States for a military attack against our country. That is at the heart of distraction. And that is why we have seen just in the last 2 and 1/2 months that every top leader of the Ronald Reagan administration has come out attacking the Grenada revolution. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT SEEKING NEW MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS

FL151720 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 15, CANA -- The people's revolutionary government (PRG) is to give priority during 1983 to the question of finding more overseas markets for Grenadian products, agriculture minister, George Louison has announced. Mr Louison said that the Grenada Government was already making a serious effort in this area and that recently it had begun to set up trade commissions in countries round the world in an effort to help move the country's products. According to Mr Louison, the Grenada Government had in recent weeks appointed a trade commissioner in Britain who would be responsible for the marketing of the island's agricultural and agro-industrial products.

The government, he added, was also looking for new markets for Grenadian products in the region and was doing a great deal of work, particularly in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, to locate new areas where the country could sell more of its products.

The minister also disclosed that a committee was set up recently by the government-owned Grenada Farms corporation, the agro-industrial plant and the Marketing and National Importing Board to deal solely with the question of finding new markets for Grenadian products.

"We have begun to give that marketing question a lot of attention because we see it as a vital area in the whole production area, and we intend to make that a central part of our work this year," he said.

Mr Louison also said that the Grenada Government would be placing much emphasis on the reorganising of the Grenada Farms corporation to make it a profitable enterprise as part of its strategy for improving the performance of the country's agricultural sector.

There would also be emphasis on the question of bringing more science and technology into agriculture this year, as well as continuing work in building and developing the work of small and medium-sized farmers in the country in order to bring them more into the process of agricultural development, he added.

HAITI

BOMB EXPLOSION DAMAGES STATE-RUN NEWSPAPER

PA171417 Paris AFP in Spanish 1335 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 17 Mar (AFP) -- It was officially announced here today that a bomb exploded last night at the facilities of the Haitian state-run newspaper LE NOUVEAU MONDE, in Port-au-Prince, near the U.S. Embassy. There were no casualties, but the explosion caused serious damage. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but official source said an investigation is underway, and that the police have not ruled out any possibilities.

Some observers have noted -- without definitely linking it to the bomb incident -- that after Pope John Paul II's visit to Port-au-Prince LE NOVEAU MONDE published several items critical of the Haitian Catholic Church's attitude toward the government, with one item in particular harshly criticizing President Jean Claude Duvalier's father-in-law, Ernest Bennet. [sentence as received]

JAMAICA

SHEARER ASSAILS U.S. ON LAW OF SEA CONVENTION

FL161454 Bridgetown CANA in English 1422 GMT 16 Mar 83

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 16, CANA -- The United States, absent from the first meeting of the preparatory commission paving the way for establishment of the functional entities of the United Nations Law of the Sea of Convention, has been indirectly accused by Jamaica of attempting to disintegrate the treaty. "It is with considerable concern and disquiet that we have learnt of recent efforts by some countries to adopt selectively some provisions of the convention while maintaining their rejection of part eleven of the convention," Jamaica's foreign minister, Hugh Shearer told the formal opening session of the commission's meeting here yesterday.

"This selective application is a unilateral attempt to promote the disintegration of the convention in the face of the overwhelming and growing support for the convention. This is an extremely dangerous precedent which must be resisted by the international community to ensure the integrity of the convention," added the foreign minister, who is leading the Jamaica delegation at the talks. Mr Shearer said too that the demise of the 1958 Geneva conventions of the Law of the Sea was "significant proof that the selective application of rules or international law leads only to the inevitable disintegration of law and order."

The foreign minister's sharp remarks were in clear response to last week's announcement by the United States that it was declaring a 200 mile exclusive economic zone - which is in keeping with the sea law treaty - while at the same time rejecting other elements of the convention. Washington has so far refused to initial the convention which has already been signed by 123 nations. The Americans claim the deepseabed mining provisions are discriminatory to private enterprise. And though it could participate in the deliberations here, having taken part in the treaty negotiations, the United States declined to send a delegation to the Kingston meeting. The Jamaica foreign minister called on all states to resist the temptation to selectively apply the convention. "Any selective approach is clearly legally and morally inadmissible," Mr Shearer said.

This first session of the preparatory commission is to last five or six weeks. Delegates are to begin drafting of detailed rules for the International Seabed Authority (ISA) which is to oversee the convention, its commercial arm, the enterprise, as well as for the Law of the Sea Tribunal which is to handle disputes. They are also to make arrangements for a system to accomodate pioneer investors in deep seabed mining technology before the convention comes into force, and for the protection of land-based producers of minerals who might be affected when deep seabed mining comes on stream. It is widely hoped that the rules drafted, within the parameters of the convention, will be able to entice the Untied States, Britain and West Germany and a few other Western states who have not signed into the convention.

Mr Shearer made an oblique reference to this, telling delegates that the absence of any state should not prevent them from "producing a result that reflects the interests of the many varied groupings within the international community in general and the law of the sea in particular." U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar made a similar reference in a message read at the opening session. He declared that delegates had an "opportunity to remove uncertainties that might arise in connection with the application of regimes and thereby facilitate the universal acceptance of the new legal system established by the convention."

This wish to draft rules and regulations that might meet the acceptance of the Western industrialised countries has made the selection of a chairman for the commission a delicate issue and the attempt is to produce consensus. Bernado Zuleta, the special representative of the U.N. secretary general for the Law of the Sea announced that regional groups would meet through the next two days working towards the identification of a chairman and to determine the structure and functions of various committees. The next plenary is planned for tomorrow, by which time it is hoped consensus would have emerged. The Asian group was meeting last night. The only identifiable candidate for the charman's seat is Ambassador Paul Engo of the Cameroons, who has been endorsed by the African group, but there is some doubt here that the diplomat can emerge with a consensus. In such an event it is expected that Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore, the president of the Law of the Sea Conference during the final period of the negotiations and considered to be a moderate whom the Western Europeans would accept, would offer his candidature or be proposed by the Asian group. "We do not have a vote on the matters on the conference, but we are interested in the selection of a good candidate," said a senior member of the British delegation which is expected to use its presence here to wean concessions from the Third World and represent most of the interests of the United States.